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A/46/302
15 July 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session
Item 58 of the preliminary list*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE DENUCLEARIZATION OF AFRICA

Letter dated 11 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, with reference to the announcement by the South African State President on 27 June 1991, a copy of which is attached, that South Africa would accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to inform you that on 10 July 1991, His Excellency Mr. H. H. Schwarz, Ambassador of South Africa to the United States of America, deposited the appropriate Instrument of Accession in Washington, D.C. (see annex).

In taking this step, the South African authorities reaffirm their commitment to a nuclear-weapon-free zone in southern Africa and to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. They trust that it will open the way for South Africa to resume an active participation in the work of the international nuclear community and, in particular, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

I should be grateful if this letter, and its annex, could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 58 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jeremy B. SHEARAR
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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* A/46/50.

READEX FICHE

ANNEX

Press release on South African accession to the NPT: statement by President F. W. de Klerk at Pretoria on 27 June 1991

(issued at New York on 1 July 1991)

At its last meeting on 26 June 1991 before the mid-term recess, the South African Cabinet has finally approved South Africa's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Accession will be effected as soon as the required constitutional and administrative arrangements have been made. To this end steps have already been initiated.

It will be recalled that my predecessor in a media statement as far back as 21 September 1987 stated, inter alia:

> "The Republic of South Africa is prepared to commence negotiations with each of the nuclear weapon States on the possibility of signing the Non-Proliferation Treaty. At the same time the Republic of South Africa will consider including in these negotiations safeguards on its installations subject to the NPT conditions. The nature of these negotiations will depend on the outcome of the 31st General Conference of the IAEA to be held in Vienna as from 22 September.
>
> "South Africa hopes that it will soon be able to sign the NPT and has decided to open discussions with others to this end. Any safeguards agreement which might subsequently be negotiated with the IAEA would naturally be along the same lines as, and in conformity with, agreements with other NPT signatories."

Since then major events in Central and Eastern Europe have changed the world order dramatically. The cold war has subsided. The last Cuban troops have withdrawn from Angola, a month ahead of schedule. The threat of a conventional military conflict in the southern African region involving super-Power rivalry has diminished substantially. World wide there has been a growing acceptance of a commitment to the peaceful resolution of regional conflicts. Following numerous discussions with the three Depository States, the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and other interested parties the South African Government indicated in September 1990 its willingness to accede to the Treaty in the context of a nuclear-free zone in southern Africa.

Recent positive developments in the region, including the accession to the NPT by Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania, have further enhanced the environment for peace and security. South Africa welcomes these accessions.

We are therefore hopeful that these developments, including South Africa's own accession to the Treaty will now make it possible to achieve the longstanding goal of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in southern Africa.

South Africa's position in the international community has changed so fundamentally that the process of normalizing its international position has now become irreversible. Its own accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty also reaffirms its commitment not only to take its rightful place in the international community but also to play a positive and constructive role in the process.

South Africa has established an advanced nuclear technology base and nuclear industry. Accession to the NPT will facilitate the international exchange of nuclear technology which is not only important for the maintenance and further development of South Africa's own nuclear programme, but will also be to the benefit of its neighbouring States and the international nuclear community.

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A

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Items 37 and 58 of the preliminary list*

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE DENUCLEARIZATION OF AFRICA

Letter dated 10 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement by President Bush on South Africa's accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty issued on 27 June 1991 by the Office of the Spokesman (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under items 37 and 58 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Thomas R. PICKERING

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Statement by President Bush on South Africa's accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

(Issued on 27 June 1991 by the Office of the Spokesman)

I welcome and strongly commend the Government of South Africa's decision to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. This decision reflects the growing international conviction to halt the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as exemplified by the adherence to the Treaty by other States in the region. It further demonstrates the statesmanship and vision of State President de Klerk as he takes South Africa into a new era beyond apartheid and regional conflict, toward reconciliation and partnership.

I strongly urge those nations in the region that have not acceded to the Treaty to do so in order to join the growing community of nations firmly bound to the principle of nuclear non-proliferation, to strengthen the international regime against the spread of weapons, and to promote the cause of peace and global cooperation.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Items 68, 94, 99 and 137 of the
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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS
DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Note verbale dated 15 July 1991 from the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit, in connection with the recent communications of the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Albania to the United Nations, enclosed herewith, the statement by the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia (see annex).

It would be appreciated if this document were distributed to the member States of the General Assembly under the items 68, 94, 99 and 137 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

* A/46/50.

Annex

Statement by the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia

The letter by the President of the Republic of Albania, Ramiz Aliu, addressed to Heads of State or Governments, permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations, to the President of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe Ministerial Council and to the President of the European Community Commission, published on 8 July 1991 in the Albanian mass media, does not come as a surprise. However, all member States of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which wish to safeguard principles of the CSCE key documents have every cause for concern.

It is obvious that the Albanian leadership decided to try to take advantage of the present situation in Yugoslavia to realize their well-known aspirations regarding Yugoslav territories populated by the Albanians. In this way Albania seriously threatens the territorial integrity of neighbouring Yugoslavia and consequently peace and security in the Balkans and in Europe. The latest act directly instigates armed rebellion in Kosovo, which obstructs the efforts exerted by the Yugoslav and international political factors, primarily those of the European Community and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, with a view to finding a solution to the Yugoslav crisis through dialogue, in order to preserve peace and ensure democratic developments in these parts.

Although it has recently become a member State of CSCE, which implies the fulfilment of certain requirements, Albania continues to pursue the activities and policies on account of which it refused to adopt the Final Document of the CSCE for a decade. It thereby assumes the responsibility not only for the consequences on the relations between our two countries, but for the stability of the region as a whole. It is high time for Albania - should it want to be accepted in the framework of the overall European cooperation - to realize that it is bound to abide by all principles and achievements of the democratic relations within CSCE, with its neighbours in the first place, harbouring no illusions that today any other approach might be possible.

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Forty-sixth session
Item 30 of the preliminary list*

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Letter dated 15 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of the Statement of the European Community and its member States on Ethiopia, issued on 12 July 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 30 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Robert J. VAN SCHAIK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Statement on Ethiopia, issued at Brussels on 12 July 1991
by the European Community

The Community and its member States welcome the successful conclusions of the Conference for Peaceful and Democratic Transition in Ethiopia, held at Addis Ababa from 1 to 5 July.

The Community and its member States had the opportunity to observe the proceedings of the Conference, which could mark a historic step towards democracy in Ethiopia. They note that the charter, adopted by the Conference, explicitly guarantees individual human rights, including freedom of expression and association.

The Community and its member States will follow with constructive interest the further developments which hopefully will lead to a nation wherein peace and democracy will prevail. They recall their readiness to support this process.

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Forty-sixth session
Item 85 of the preliminary list*

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Letter dated 15 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you an urgent appeal to the international community for disaster relief assistance to the disaster areas in the Anhui and Jiangsu Provinces of China made by Mr. Chen Hong, Secretary-General of the China National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and Vice-Minister of Civil Affairs.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and the attached urgent appeal from the Government of China to be issued as an official document of the General Assembly under item 85 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) JIN Yongjian
Acting Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Appeal to the international community for disaster relief assistance to disaster areas in Anhui and Jiangsu Provinces made on 11 July 1991 by the Secretary-General of the China National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and Vice-Minister of Civil Affairs

On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China, I hereby urgently appeal to the concerned United Nations agencies, Governments of all nations and the concerned authorities of the international community, to offer humanitarian relief assistance to the disaster areas in the Anhui and Jiangsu Provinces of China. Conditions of the disaster in the two provinces are as follows:

1. Disaster situation

During the first half of this year, in particular since May and June, 18 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities in China suffered from floods, and 5 provinces and autonomous regions suffered from severe droughts. Rainfall in the Huaihe River Valley and the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River was two to five times the rainfall in the same period of a normal year. The rainstorms occurred with great intensity and concentration in certain areas, causing heavy flooding. The Chuhe River, a tributary of the Yangtze River, and Lake Taihu have recorded the highest flood water level in 40 years. Two big floods occurred in succession in the Huaihe River. In order to avoid huge calamities caused by the collapse of the river embankment, the Government has, in a planned way, divided and stored floods in many parts of Anhui, Jiangsu, Henan and Zhejiang Provinces, but the water level remains high owing to the persistent rain, causing heavy waterlogging over large areas and overflowing of rivers. Wide in coverage, heavy in losses and great in extent, such floods are rarely seen in decades.

Anhui and Jiangsu are the most seriously affected provinces with the greatest loss. Quite a number of villages are flooded, many houses have collapsed and family property has been washed away by the flood. Farmlands and crops have been destroyed, industrial and commercial enterprises, schools, transportation and communications as well as water conservancy facilities have been heavily damaged and communications and transportation interrupted. The most seriously affected counties, where water supplies have been cut off, power has failed, work and businesses stopped and schools were closed, are virtually paralysed and losses are extremely heavy.

According to preliminary statistics up to 7 July, more than 20 urban districts and 1,300 townships in 70 cities and counties of Anhui Province were inundated. In some places, the flood water level exceeded 1.5 metres and lasted for several days. In that province, 33.9 million people have been victims of the floods, of whom 11.25 million are badly affected and over

9.6 million are most seriously affected. A total of 6.21 million people in 31,011 villages are besieged by flooding, 927,000 victims have been transferred, 267 persons have been killed and 2,316 are seriously injured. Over 4.3 million hectares of crops have been affected and 740,000 hectares are yieldless, 4,000 hectares of cultivated land have been destroyed. As a result of the floods, the outputs of summer grain crops and oil plants have been reduced by more than 4.3 billion and 260 million kilograms respectively. A total of 490,000 houses have collapsed and 973,000 houses have been damaged. Landslide and subsidence occurred in two sections of the roadbed on the Tianjin-Shanghai railway line and operations were suspended for 97 hours and 27 minutes. The floods have severely hit 889 industrial and mining enterprises, 1,405 hospitals, more than 20,000 schools and more than 40,000 bridges, culverts, canals and irrigation works. Some 1,000 kilometres of highway and 1,300 kilometres of communication lines have been washed away. Direct economic losses total nearly 7 billion yuan renminbi.

There are more than 42 million flood victims in Jiangsu Province, of whom 7.2 million people are badly affected and 5 million are most seriously affected, 3.04 million people in 3,040 villages are encircled by floods, over 2 million people have been rescued and transferred. The floods have killed 164 persons and badly injured more than 600 people. Three million hectares of crops have been affected and more than 330,000 hectares of farmlands are yieldless. As a result of the floods, summer grain output has been reduced by more than 2 billion kilograms. A total of 156,000 houses have collapsed and 225,000 others have been damaged. Severe damage has been done to 25,000 industrial and mining enterprises, more than 400 hospitals, 17,000 bridges, culverts, canals and other water conservancy facilities. Some 1.5 million square metres of school buildings have collapsed and communication lines have been severely damaged. The direct economic losses reach 9 billion yuan renminbi.

Now is the main flood season in China. Heavy rain and rainstorms are continuing in the valleys of the Yangtze and Huaihe Rivers. The second flood has already occurred in the main stream of the Huaihe River and a tributary of the Yangtze River, the Chu River, since the beginning of the flood season. On 7 July, the Anhui section of the Tianjing-Shanghai railway line was cut again for dozens of hours. In general, the disaster situation is growing worse, and losses will increase further.

2. Disaster relief operations

In the face of the severe disaster, while organizing the disaster fighting and relief operations across the nation, the Government of China has attached great importance to the relief work in these two provinces. General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee Jiang Zemin, Premier Li Peng and Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun took turns to visit the disaster areas to inspect the situation, express sympathy and concern for the victims and give guidance to the relief work. Appropriate departments under the State Council have promptly sent their staff to investigate the disaster situation and to help the local people to carry out their relief activities and deal with their

problems. The party and government leaders at all levels of the disaster areas are commanding the fight against the floods in the forefront. In these two provinces, a total of 12 million local people and soldiers are fighting in the front line to combat the disaster and conduct relief work.

According to incomplete statistics, more than 400 million yuan renminbi and 700,000 tons of grain, steel and other materials have been provided to the disaster relief efforts, of which more than 200 million yuan renminbi and 300,000 tons of relief materials have been contributed by the central Government and the remainder by the local governments.

3. Difficulties in the disaster areas

Though governments at all levels have taken a series of effective measures and people in the disaster areas have made great efforts, because of the extent of and the huge loss caused by the floods, the disaster areas are still confronted with numerous difficulties: nearly 2 million homeless people, whose houses have collapsed, their grain and property washed away, need to be settled. The flood-besieged villages have no means of transportation by water, so it is almost impossible to reach these villages and provide relief materials to the victims. Some victims are suffering from dysentery, malaria and other diseases as a result of water pollution. The incidence rate in the badly affected areas is as high as 25 per cent. Many farmlands and water conservancy facilities, highways, bridges, embankments, communication lines, power and water supply facilities are in urgent need of repair and rehabilitation. More than 200 million United States dollars and different kinds of materials and supplies urgently needed by the victims will be required to accomplish the above-mentioned relief operations.

The Government of China is making every effort to collect funds, goods and materials to help the disaster areas in Anhui and Jiangsu Provinces to overcome the difficulties as soon as possible. Therefore, it wishes to make an urgent appeal to the international community for immediate humanitarian relief assistance and long- and medium-term rehabilitation assistance to these two provinces. We also welcome assistance to the seriously affected areas in Henan and Zhejiang Provinces.

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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT:
REGIONAL DISARMAMENT
REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE
TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 12 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Final Document adopted by the representatives of the member States of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on confidence-building measures, security, disarmament and development in Central Africa, at the close of the subregional seminar-workshop of 17 to 21 June 1991 organized in Yaoundé by the Department for Disarmament Affairs in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and of its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 60 (1) and 61 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pascal BILOA TANG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

TRAINING PROGRAMME ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION, CRISIS PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT AND CONFIDENCE-BUILDING AMONG THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES (ECCAS)

Seminar for High-level Military and Civilian Officials
Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon
17 to 21 June 1991

FINAL DOCUMENT

The seminar on conflict resolution, crisis prevention and management and confidence-building among the member States of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) was held at Yaoundé (Cameroon), from 17 to 21 June 1991.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR AND ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

1. The seminar was organized by the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, in conjunction with the Government of the Republic of Cameroon.

2. The seminar brought together high-level civilian and military officials from the following countries:

Burundi

Cameroon

Central African Republic

Chad

Congo

Equatorial Guinea

Gabon

Rwanda

Sao Tome and Principe

Zaire

3. The opening ceremonies on 17 June 1991 were presided over by Mr. Jacques-Roger Booh Booh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon, who gave the welcoming address on behalf of the Government of the host country. A direction was given to the work done during the seminar by the important statements made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon, by Mr. Yasushi Akashi, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, by Mr. Melanio Ebendeng Nsomo, Minister of Defence of the Republic of

Equatorial Guinea and representative of the current President of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), by Ambassador Kasasa Cinyante Mutati, Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States.

4. The goal of the seminar-workshop was to provide information and training to high-level civilian and military officials from ECCAS member States on techniques for preventing and managing crises, and on political, economic and military steps conducive to confidence-building, transparency and the social and economic development of our countries domestically and at the subregional level. The participants considered a number of complex questions dealt with by high-level specialists, namely:

The international political, military and economic issues of the day and their relationship to peace, security, disarmament and confidence-building among African States;

The militarization of African affairs and its implications for the peace and development of the continent;

The peaceful settlement of disputes and the non-use of force: the law and the actuality;

The new international system and its implications for peace and security in Africa, with a focus on the Central African subregion;

Public administration reforms as a factor in peace and progress in Africa, with a focus on the Central African subregion;

Structural adjustment and sustained economic growth as factors in peace and progress in Africa;

The role and function of the defence committee of the Organization of African Unity.

5. A model United Nations Security Council meeting was organized on "the mandate, establishment and management of a peace-keeping force". In addition, the delegates took part in:

A "brainstorming" meeting on "democratization, human rights and peace in the African context";

A group discussion on the topics: "Should African military expenditures be reduced? If so, why and how? Central Africa as a case in point".

6. During an evaluation meeting on 20 June 1991, the participants expressed the belief that the seminar had achieved its dual goal, namely, to serve as a forum for an exchange of ideas and outlooks among the representatives, and to provide practical training in the skills and modern techniques needed for the peaceful settlement of disputes, crisis prevention and management and confidence-building.

II. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The participants in the seminar-workshop on conflict resolution, crisis prevention and management and confidence-building among the member States of the Economic Community of Central African States adopted a resolution at the conclusion of their work that will be submitted to the forty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly. They expressed the hope that the international community would continue to give its support to the huge undertaking by the Central African States, which should result in:

The conclusion of a non-aggression pact and the adoption of legal instruments providing for a system of mutual assistance and collective defence at the subregional and regional levels;

The creation of a strategic studies centre within the framework of existing university or military training facilities in our subregion and the establishment of subregional cooperation in military training;

The organization of joint military exercises and mixed patrols;

The creation under United Nations auspices of a standing advisory committee responsible for security questions;

An expansion of each State's actual diplomatic presence in all the other countries;

A plan for reducing the military and security budgets and allocating the funds thus released to social and economic development and especially to regional and national development projects;

The establishment of hotlines between our heads of State; and

The strengthening of economic cooperation, as envisaged in the Treaty establishing the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

The participants further expressed their deep gratitude to the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs for its assistance in the preparation and organization of the seminar.

Paying tribute to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the participants, in conclusion, asked him to continue to provide their countries with the advice and assistance needed to achieve the proposed aims of the action that will be taken to promote confidence-building, security and development in Central Africa.

Done at Yaoundé, 21 June 1991

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Items 78 (e) and 79 of the
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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
ENVIRONMENT

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 18 July 1991 from the representatives of Germany and Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the Joint German-Indonesian Statement on Cooperation on Environmental Protection, issued on 4 July 1991 on the occasion of the State visit of His Excellency President Soeharto of the Republic of Indonesia to Germany (see annex).

It is to be noted that this statement constitutes the first of its kind issued jointly by an industrialized country and a developing country.

We would be grateful if you could have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 78 (e) and 79 of the preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Hans-Joachim VERGAU
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Germany to the United Nations

(Signed) Nugroho WISNUMURTI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Indonesia to the United Nations

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Joint German-Indonesian statement on cooperation in environmental protection on the occasion of the State visit of His Excellency President Soeharto in Germany, 2 to 7 July 1991

1. The Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the Republic of Indonesia are convinced of the need to strengthen international cooperation in the field of the environment in the context of the pursuit of sustainable development. They expressed their concern with the increasingly serious global environmental problems and their impact upon humanity's well-being and upon development efforts. Overcoming those problems is an equitable shared responsibility of all countries. It will require an unprecedented level of both national and international efforts.

2. Both sides noted with satisfaction the progress made in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), due to take place in June 1992. They expressed their willingness to continue the active participation of their respective countries in the UNCED preparatory process and to further their cooperation in this process in order to ensure the success of UNCED.

3. They further agreed to strengthen their environmental cooperation to enable the achievement of environmentally sound and sustainable development. Also, that such cooperation should be in line and in harmony with the principles and positions agreed upon by their Governments in international forums.

4. They further agreed to continue their support of ongoing international efforts to establish international agreements on:

(i) A climate convention which must chiefly tackle the problem of both reducing emissions of CO_2 and safeguarding the biomass necessary for its absorption. Both those aspects pertain to the use of energy and the safeguarding the forests of all kinds and in all climates.

(ii) A convention for the preservation of biodiversity with priority given to preserving biodiversity on the spot. Such a convention must appropriately take into account the concerns and needs of biodiversity repository countries.

5. Both sides recognized that along with the oceans, forests constitute the most important complete ecosystem and are instrumental in maintaining climate and water balance and in preventing soil erosion, while also serving as the major repository of biodiversity. Moreover, forests form one of the indispensable sources of mankind's existence and, in various cases, a direct source of livelihood and a human habitat. Equally indispensable is the function of forest as a renewable resource of development in general and as

the origin of a wide range of commodities of great economic and developmental value.

6. For widely differing reasons the existence of boreal, temperate and tropical forests is under serious threat. Therefore, suitable steps must be taken to achieve sustainable forest management with a view to allow for both their preservation and economic utilization. The environmental and economic functions of forests must be made compatible.

7. While in this respect international action programmes such as the Tropical Forest Action Plan are of great importance, a more comprehensive framework ensuring global cooperative action needs to be developed: a framework which encompasses the environmental functions as well as the economic and developmental functions of forests throughout the globe.

8. Both sides acknowledge that a number of vital principles be upheld in developing such a framework for global cooperative action on forests, and these include:

(i) Such a framework must pertain to all types of forests in all climates and must duly consider the expanse of the different types and their respective environmental and economic functions as well as criteria for their sustainable management.

(ii) It must give due consideration to the legitimate needs and concerns of the developing countries in their pursuit of sustainable development and their efforts to eradicate poverty. Sufficient consideration should be given to economic, developmental and to social structures as well as ecological requirements in order that in developing countries sustainable management and development of forests and their resources will promote and not hamper development.

(iii) At the heart of these and other principles is the notion that while all countries, including the developing countries, will assume their respective responsibilities in safeguarding the global environment, such responsibilities and efforts must be equitably shared by all.

(iv) Further aspects of the needed framework for cooperative action of forests, including the proper legal form of the framework, will be negotiated once there is agreement on the basic guiding principles.

9. Such negotiations should take place under the auspices of the United Nations with the support of competent international organizations. Both Governments expressed the hope that at UNCED 1992 at the latest an agreement can be reached on basic principles and a decision can be formulated in order that the United Nations can mandate a negotiating process, establish the negotiating entity and provide it with its appropriate terms of reference.

10. Both sides recognize that in order to implement the commitments resulting from various agreements on the global environment many developing countries

would require additional financial and technical assistance and technology cooperation. They agree to urge industrialized countries, the World Bank and other multilateral institutions concerned with the financing or development, in addition to their activities for development, to provide greater and additional support for forest preservation measures and environmental efforts in general.

11. Both Governments also agreed on the urgent need to continue and increase ongoing national and international efforts to combat world-wide forest degradation and destruction while such international agreements are being negotiated. In this context, industrialized countries should intensify their efforts to control more effectively their air pollution affecting their forest resources. All countries should undertake every effort to eliminate, as soon as possible, unsustainable and destructive forms of forest utilization incompatible with national legislation and internationally accepted guidelines.

12. Both sides also agreed to extend their support to efforts seeking to establish equity among nations in assuming their respective tasks safeguarding the global environment and in that context promote the better exchange of information, resources and technology between nations.

13. Noting the high level of their commitment to the environment and the progress achieved, while remaining aware of Indonesia's need to achieve sustainable development, both Governments reiterate their desire to enhance their cooperation. Furthermore, wishing to symbolize the necessary partnership between industrialized and developing countries, Indonesia and Germany are prepared to jointly assume assignments that may be asked of them by the United Nations to facilitate the negotiating processes leading to an international agreement on global forests.

14. Both sides finally agreed to further intensify the bilateral cooperation between their countries in the field of the protection of the environment, also with a view to implementing ideas contained in this joint statement.